

Gov. Bob Wise announces Homeland Security funding for counties and cities



Gov. Bob Wise greets RRP members and law enforcement officers before his speech announcing homeland security grants.



Gov. Bob Wise, Homeland Security Advisor Joe Martin and WVOES Director Stephen S. Kappa see a demonstration of the bomb retrieval robot from a West Virginia State Trooper.



Gov. Bob Wise addresses the crowd. Pictured from left to right, MAPS Secretary Christy Morris, Gov. Wise, Homeland Security Advisor Joe Martin and WVOES Director Stephen S. Kappa.

On April 19, Gov. Bob Wise announced the disbursement of \$31.1 million of federal grant money for homeland security initiatives across West Virginia.

“Federal Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge has referred to West Virginia as a model in how a state should implement an effective regionally based response program,” Wise said. “The distribution of this money will further enhance our homeland security efforts.”

During the past three years, West Virginia has committed \$22 million to homeland security programs. The majority of that money has been invested in equipment and training for first responders. More than 400 first responders across West Virginia have been certified in how to deal with hazardous materials and weapons of mass destruction.

“We are dedicated to protecting the lives and property of West Virginians,” WVOES Director Stephen S. Kappa said. “We are pleased the capability of our local first responders will be further enhanced by this funding.”

Eighty percent of the funding will be distributed to all 55 counties and 21 cities. This will be provided in the form of grants and additional equipment purchases for regional response teams, local fire departments and acute care hospitals.

Nearly \$15.5 million will be awarded directly to counties and cities. Roughly \$8 million of that money is earmarked for law enforcement initiatives. About \$9.9 million in additional emergency response equipment will be provided to regional response teams, hospitals and local fire departments.

Also, \$280,000 will be distributed to 28 counties to expand the Citizens Corps and Community Emergency Response Program, and \$700,000 is scheduled to be given to 13 counties and the city of Charleston for full-time emergency planners.

Nearly \$6 million is earmarked for state initiatives. This includes \$2 million to strengthen the state’s ability to combat cyber terrorism and \$1.3 million for the Department of Agriculture

to protect the state’s food supply and the agriculture industry from acts of terrorism.

Additional funding will be provided to the West Virginia State Police, Department of Environmental Protection, Fire Marshal’s Office, Department of Natural Resources and the Office of Emergency Services to further strengthen existing programs.

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Webster County's new EOC dedicated



WVOES Director Stephen S. Kappa congratulates the Webster County Commission, the Webster County Emergency Services Director and other officials on having the foresight and determination to build the new facility.



Webster County Emergency Services Director Don McCourt gives Raleigh County Emergency Services Director Jack Bowden a tour of the new 9-1-1 telecommunications room.

The new Webster County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Webster Springs was dedicated on April 16. The center features staff offices, 9-1-1 telecommunications room, interview room, conference room, bunkroom, bathrooms and kitchen facilities.

The dedication ceremony speakers were Webster County Emergency Services Director Don McCourt, County Commission President William "Chuck" Armentrout, WVOES Director Stephen S. Kappa and former Webster County Prosecuting Attorney Jack Morton.

"We are proud of the foresight and dedication of the county commission, and emergency services director and staff for working to give their citizens this excellent facility and the enhanced services this facility provides," Kappa said.

"This new EOC is for the people of Webster County," McCourt said.



Webster County Commission President William "Chuck" Armentrout and Webster County Paramedic Supervisor Mike Hart tell Stephen S. Kappa about the many benefits of the new emergency operation and 9-1-1 center for county residents.

"We are here to help protect and serve them. This is going to help us do that even better."

McCourt thanked the staff for their hard work in executing their professional duties and in working to remodel the building when it was purchased in May 2003. He also thanked the Webster County Commission and other officials that had worked to make the EOC plan a reality.



Stephen S. Kappa

Director's message

The Governor's recent announcement of \$15.5 million in Homeland Security Grant funding being awarded to all 55 counties and 21 cities in West Virginia will insure that the capabilities of local first responders and law enforcement agencies are strengthened.

We are continuing to partner with the Bureau of Public Health and the West Virginia Hospital Association to improve our ability to decontaminate injured personnel as a result of a Weapons of Mass Destruction incident. During the coming months, the WVOES staff will continue to work with state agencies and county OES directors to conduct training and exercises that will improve our ability to respond to a variety of emergency contingency plans.

Successful radiological emergency drill completed

The WVOES, in conjunction with the West Virginia Bureau of Public Health, Hancock County Office of Emergency Services, Beaver Valley Power Station (BVPS), Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency and Ohio Emergency Management Agency successfully completed federally evaluated radiological emergency plume and ingestion drills on May 11 and May 13.

"I am pleased with our drill performance and the outcome," said West Virginia Office of Emergency Services Director Stephen S. Kappa. "West Virginia is well-prepared with detailed plans and trained personnel to help protect citizens in the event of a Beaver Valley Power Station radioactive release."

The federally evaluated drills for plume phase occur every two years while the evaluated drills for ingestion phase happen every 6 years.

Although there is no nuclear power plant in West Virginia, Hancock County is in the 10-mile emergency planning zone for the Beaver Valley Power Station, owned by FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company. The power station is located in Shippingport, Pa. The West Virginia emergency operations plan and Hancock County emergency operations plan include procedures for protecting the public from potential radioactive releases from BVPS.



Located five miles from Hancock County, this is the nuclear Beaver Valley Power Station.

Philippi achieves W.Va. NFIP first



Acting Cabinet MAPS Acting Secretary Christy Morris and Philippi Mayor Caton Hill hold the Community Rating System certificate. FEMA State Mitigation Planner Richard Rein stands on the left side of Morris and WVOES National Flood Insurance Program Coordinator Robert Perry stands on the right side of Hill.

The West Virginia Office of Emergency Services (WVOES) Director Stephen S. Kappa, announced Philippi is the first community in the state to enter the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System (CRS). This achievement allows Philippi residents to receive a 10 percent discount on flood insurance.

Christy Morris, acting cabinet secretary of the West Virginia Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety, presented a plaque to Caton Hill, Philippi Mayor at the city council meeting. WVOES National

Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Coordinator Robert Perry, Federal Emergency Management State Mitigation Planner Richard Rein and WVOES Director Stephen S. Kappa attended the meeting to congratulate the Philippi officials.

"We are proud of the efforts of Philippi officials to help its residents to be able to more easily afford flood insurance," Kappa said.

"Last year West Virginia lead the nation with four federal disaster declarations and only three of the 55 counties were not involved in the federal disasters."

"Because of this, you can see why we hope more communities will work to enter the Community Rating System (CRS) and decrease flood insurance premiums for their residents," Kappa said.

The National Flood Insurance Program's CRS is a voluntary incentive program that recognizes and encourages community floodplain management activities that exceed the minimum National Flood Insurance Program requirements. Flood insurance premium rates are discounted to reflect the reduced flood risk from the community actions.

Pleasant Valley, Fayetteville join NFIP

The towns of Pleasant Valley in Marion County and Fayetteville in Fayette County have joined the list of 267 West Virginia communities that participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) by adopting and enforcing floodplain management ordinances to reduce future flood damage. Nearly 20,000 communities nationwide participate in the NFIP.

Participation in the NFIP makes federally backed flood insurance and certain federal disaster assistance available to homeowners, renters and business owners in these communities.

"We are pleased that Pleasant Valley and Fayetteville have joined the NFIP. Not only are residents now eligible to purchase flood insurance, they are better protected from flood damages or losses," said Stephen S. Kappa, director of the West Virginia Office of Emergency Services.

"Flood insurance is the only safe guard to ensure that flood damages or losses are covered, whether or not there is a federal disaster declaration. Buildings constructed in compliance with NFIP building standards suffer about 80 percent less damage annually than those not built in compliance."

W. Va. first state to submit new mitigation plan

West Virginia is the first state from Federal Emergency Management Agency Region III to complete a plan in compliance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA2K).

The DMA2K provides a framework for linking mitigation planning and initiatives with public and private interests, ensuring an integrated, comprehensive approach to disaster loss reduction. In addition, implementation of pre-identified, cost-effective mitigation measures will streamline the disaster recovery process.

The DMA2K also establishes new requirements for local mitigation plans and authorizes up to seven percent of their Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding for the development of state and local plans. West Virginia used this funding to hire a consultant to assist in the development of their plan.

Multihazard Building Design Summer Institute 2004

July 19-21, 2004

Free Tuition for architects and engineers
Flood Mitigation Design
Wind Mitigation Design
FEMA Emergency Management Institute
Emmitsburg, Maryland

<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/MB>

New consumer NFIP advertising campaign, Web site

The National Flood Insurance Program launched a new consumer marketing campaign called FloodSmart to better educate people about the need for flood insurance.

Not all homeowners know that their homeowner's insurance does not cover them for the most frequently occurring natural disaster – flooding.

"Many people have incorrectly assumed that federal disaster assistance will help them pay for all damages if their homes are flooded," WVOES Director Stephen S. Kappa said.

"Disaster assistance is only available when the President issues a major disaster declaration. This assistance is limited. Often it is a loan that must be repaid with interest."

"We are very pleased to see this new education campaign program that will help people understand the dangers of not having flood insurance."

The television commercials for the new advertising campaign deliver this important message to consumers.

The visuals in the commercials demonstrate the destruction natural disasters can have on a home. The commercials will direct consumers to contact their agent, call for information or visit www.floodsmart.gov to get their homes covered. J. Walter Thompson

advertising is developing the commercials in a modern fashion – digitally.

The agency is creating natural disasters graphics using modern digital technology. No traditional film or staging is used. The commercials began airing on a number of cable networks nationally in May.

"The FloodSmart campaign is a smart investment by the NFIP," WVOES NFIP Coordinator Robert Perry said. "Every \$3 paid in flood insurance claims saves \$1 in disaster assistance payments."

The new Web site www.floodsmart.gov helps consumers learn their flood risk and find an agent close to home.

"Emergency services directors will have this excellent resource to recommend to citizens," Kappa said. "This will answer a lot of basic questions about flood insurance."

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"Unlike tax-supported federal disaster assistance, the NFIP is self-supporting for the average loss year."

One of the most useful features of the Web site is the Agent Directory.

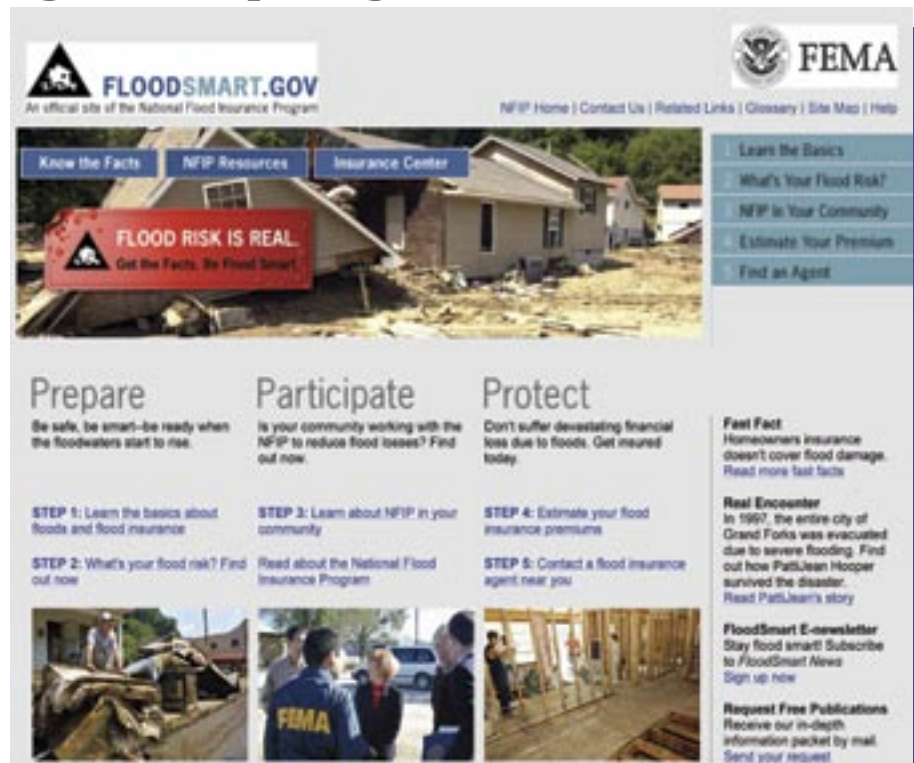
The Agent Directory tool is designed to quickly get consumers in touch with agents qualified and interested in selling flood insurance.

In addition to the Agent Directory, the site has a Flood Risk Assessment tool where visitors can input their address to receive a property profile containing flood zone designations, a list of local agents, a digital map image (if available) and information about what's happening in their community.

Other features include comprehensive information about the hazards of floods and flood insurance, local and regional news, and floodplain management efforts.

Visitors will also be able to sign-up for an e-newsletter, request a brochure, and use the premium estimator to calculate general insurance rates based on standard inputs.

People who want more information about flood insurance can contact Robert Perry at (304) 965-2331 or robperry@wvoes.state.wv.us.



RRP improving local first responder capability



To the left of the State Fire Marshal vehicle, the Skywatch is elevated to monitor the surrounding environment with camera and weather equipment.



A close up of the Skywatch shows camera and weather monitoring equipment.



This robot used in bomb situations helps preserve the lives of first responders. The robot can video a suspicious object, so that professionals can examine it from a safe distance.



The robot can grasp and move small objects like this mock grenade.

Local first responder capabilities are improving as the West Virginia Regional Response Program (RRP) is paying for more advanced training and modern equipment.

The RRP is supplying acute care hospitals with decontamination shelters to supplement static decontamination facilities. Along with the specialized shelters, the hospitals are receiving decontamination and shelter set-up training.

Additionally, most West Virginia fire departments are receiving decontamination equipment.

“Decontamination is the process of cleaning off hazardous substances,” Technical Hazards Director Neal Sharp said. “The substance could be chemical or radiological.”

“The process must be done in a way that prevents the transfer of the hazardous substance to other people and to other surfaces.”

The decontamination shelters and accompanying training and equipment are increasing the capability of local hospitals and fire departments.”

The high-tech shelters are engineered to be durable, lightweight and portable. The design is efficient with three sections. Two sections allow mobile patients to be decontaminated. The middle section has a conveyor to carry immobile patients.

For the safety and comfort of patients, the water pump can

quickly heat water for the process. Furthermore, the two side sections have privacy flaps and allow for the modesty of patients

The RRP continues to grow and progress. So far, nearly 440 first responders have been trained and certified to serve in the RRP.

“It is our hope that West Virginia is never faced with a terrorist attack or large-scale incident,” Sharp said. “In that case, West Virginia still benefits, because the overall capability of local first responders and hospitals has been significantly enhanced by the West Virginia Regional Response Program and U.S. Department of Homeland Security funding.”

“Whether a first responder is taking care of a house fire or auto accident, the training and equipment supported by the Homeland Security funding is helping them to do the job better. Consequently, our citizens’ emergency response needs are being better met.”



RRP team members bundle the decontamination shelter, so it is ready to be transported to the next location. The shelter is very compact when disassembled.



The portable decontamination shelter has three compartments, including one for immobile patients. A simple conveyor slides the injured patients through the shelter.



RRP team members can quickly assemble or disassemble a decontamination shelter.

Logan County Emergency Services Director dies at age 96

Jim Singleton, believed to have been the oldest and longest serving county emergency services director in the nation, died March 27, 2004. Singleton's 50 years of Logan County emergency service began as an air raid warden during World War II. Later, he served in the Logan County civil defense system. Finally, he served as the Logan County Emergency Services Director.

Singleton is credited with guiding Logan County through its worst natural

disasters including the Buffalo Creek flood of 1972. In that disaster, the Buffalo Creek Mine Dam broke killing 125 individuals, injuring 1,100 and leaving 4,000 homeless in a period of just minutes on February 26, 1972.

"He has seen this county through most of its most difficult times," said Roger Bryant, executive director of the Logan Emergency Ambulance Service Authority. "It was his experience and steady hand which allowed us to manage those tragedies."

Born in Illinois, Singleton first came to Logan County in 1926. Singleton had many skills and qualifications including being a trained engineer, short wave radio operator and pilot.

"Jim was a good friend and good director for whom I have the greatest respect," said WVOES Director of Operations Tom Burns. "His passing is a big loss to his county and to this state. We are going to miss him."

WVOES director receives national SBA Award

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) awarded Stephen S. Kappa, director of the West Virginia Office of Emergency Services, the national Phoenix Award for Outstanding Contributions to Disaster Recovery by a Public Official.

Kappa received the prestigious award during the National Small Business Week celebration in Orlando, Fla. May 19-21.

This annual award recognizes a state or local government official's exceptional contributions to a community's recovery following a disaster.

"I am honored that the SBA has chosen me for this award," Kappa said. "I share this honor with the hardworking county and city emergency service directors who worked tirelessly to help protect the lives and property of citizens in 2004."



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